

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 2-5 are allowable.

Claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 10 and 13 to include the features of base claim 1.

New claims 11 and 14 recite the features of allowable claim 4 and depend from claims 10 and 13, respectively.

Similarly, new claims 12 and 15 recite the features of allowable claim 5 and depend from claims 11 and 14, respectively.

New claim 16 is added to augment the scope of protection for this invention.

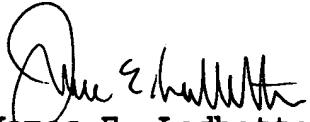
The new claims have been placed in non-means-plus function format, so that 35 USC 112, sixth paragraph, is non-applicable thereto.

Original claims 1-9 have been canceled to obviate the objections and rejections thereto.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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